



OAKWORTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Fifty-Eighth
Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Combined District for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

The Report is an "Ordinary Report" drawn up on the lines suggested in the Ministry of Health Circular 1650, and, in accordance with the economy cuts recommended by the Central Authority and local Councils repetition is avoided by references to information given in the "Survey Report" of 1930. Further details of work done are restricted to facts essential to the maintenance of the continuity of records kept for the past fifty-seven years.

At last, the Review of County Districts has been completed, and on 1st April, 1938, the existence of Oakworth as a separate Authority will cease. During the years Oakworth was an independent entity many changes, many improvements, have taken place, and no regrets need be felt by its representatives, because a larger Authority will benefit from your past activities. How far the financial position will be affected by amalgamation with Keighley Borough is beyond the scope of this report, but Preventive Medicine—otherwise Public Health—knows no boundaries, and united action should tend to benefit all concerned.

From non-notifiable diseases you were comparatively free, while from notifiable diseases the incidence was considerably below average.

On the other hand, trade conditions improved, with consequently more employment, and a higher standard of living, although towards Autumn unemployment began to increase.

The vital statistics show : Birth-rate 14·08, Death-rate 16·74, and Infant Mortality 75.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

1. PHYSICAL FEATURES
2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT
- } See Report for 1930.

3. GENERAL DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	9,125
Population (1921 Census)	...	...	...	...	4,171
Population (1931 Census)	...	...	...	...	3,983
Population (1937 estimated)	...	...	...	...	3,763
Inhabited Houses (1937 estimated)	...	...	...	...	1,320
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£17,734
Sum represented by a penny rate					£69 8s.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) BIRTHS.

The Births registered as occurring in or belonging to the District were 53.

Legitimate	...	...	24 males and 27 females.
Illegitimate	...	...	1 male and 1 female.

Birth-rate on an estimated population of 3,763 is equivalent to 14·08 per 1,000, compared with 13·6, 10·6 and 12·5 in the previous three years, with 12·13 for the Craven Combined District, and with 14·9 for England and Wales.

(b) DEATHS.

The deaths, after correction by the inward transfer of residents dying outside the District and the outward transfer of non-residents dying inside the District, numbered 31 males and 32 females—a total of 63.

The death-rate is thus 16·74, compared with 13·9, 11·6 and 11·5 in the previous three years, with 15·18 for the Craven Districts, and 12·4 for England and Wales.

(c) INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant deaths, as corrected by the Registrar-General, were 4—2 males and 2 females.

The infant mortality was therefore 75 per 1,000 births, compared with 75, 48 and 104 in the previous three years, with 53 for the Craven Districts, and 58 for England and Wales.

(d) STILL BIRTHS.

Number of still births registered, 4.

Percentage of still births to total births (alive and still), 7·0.

(e) MATERNITY MORTALITY.

Number of maternal deaths from puerperal causes—0.

Maternal death-rate per 1,000 live births—nil, compared with 3·3 for the Craven Combined District, and with 3·2 for England and Wales. As the number of births was small, comparison with other districts gives little information.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

The seven principal zymotic diseases, namely, Small Pox, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Diarrhœa, were responsible for no deaths. For the previous four years there had not been a single death.

The Zymotic death-rate, therefore, was ·00, compared with ·0, ·0 and ·0 in the previous three years, and with ·14 in the Craven Combined Districts.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death in Oakworth Urban District, 1937.					M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	31	32
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...			...	—	—
2 Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6 Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	—
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	1
10 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12 General paralysis of insane,	...	...	...	...	—	—
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	6	5
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	2
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	4	3
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	9	13
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—
19 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	1
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	1	1
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	—	—
23 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	—
24 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
26 Other diseases of liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	—
29 Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—	—
31 Congenital debility, premature birth, &c.	...	...	...	...	—	2
32 Senility	...	...	...	...	1	—
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	—
34 Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	1	1
35 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	2	3
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above) :						
Small-Pox	...	...	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—

To the total death-rate of 16·7

Infectious Diseases contributed	·00
Tuberculosis	·53
Cancer	2·98
Heart Disease	5·84
Respiratory Diseases	·79
Apoplexy	1·86
Premature Birth, &c.	·53
Senility	·26
Other Diseases	3·9

The general death-rate is high,
infant mortality slightly above average
and maternal mortality nil.

B.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

1.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

M.O.H.—WM. SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., C.M., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: W. ASA BAILEY, M.S.I.A.

2.—PROVISION OF HOSPITALS, CLINICS, LABORATORY FACILITIES, &c.

There has been no development or change in the services provided by the Council during the year. Details of these were given in the 1933 Report, as well as of those established and supervised by the W.R. County Council.

3.—PROFESSIONAL NURSING, MIDWIVES ACT, LEGISLATION IN FORCE, &c.

Details of these were given in 1931 Report.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.—WATER SUPPLY.

The mains of the Keighley Borough water undertaking run through the District, supplying such places as Pickles Hill, Lane Ends, Oakworth and Damems, i.e., approximately 770 of the 1,320 houses in the district. During the year new water mains were laid in Mill Lane, Oakworth.

Other villages, e.g., Stanbury and Laycock, have spring water piped into most of the houses, while in small and more isolated hamlets—Goose Eye, Oldfield and Newsholme—the inhabitants have to carry their supplies into the houses from dipping troughs and shallow wells.

The main supply is abundant and of undoubted purity, but so soft that continuous treatment with alkalies is necessary to prevent the peaty acid from developing plumbosolvent action on lead service pipes. Water derived from streams and shallow wells is always a source of anxiety owing to liability to surface pollution. For this reason attention has previously been drawn to the advisability of securing an improved supply for Stanbury and Laycock.

Observation of private supplies has been maintained with nothing special to report.

2. SEWERAGE DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

In the Surveyor's Report of 1925, details were given showing that only in Oakworth village was there an adequate system of sewerage, sewage disposal, and house connections. The drains and sewerage of other parts of the district are decidedly less satisfactory. For instance, in Stanbury, the house drainage is into cesspools and on to the land, while in Laycock the drains discharge separately on to land as in Stanbury. Although the aim of the Council is for property owners to provide sufficient water closet and ashpit accommodation for each house, the former is only possible where sewer and water are available, and thus progress is slow, especially in the two villages mentioned above. Improvements to sludge filters previously carried out, make for greater efficiency.

It is understood that the sewerage of Laycock and Stanbury is to be undertaken by Keighley Corporation in the near future, i.e., after amalgamation with the Borough.

3.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

(a) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Your Inspector presents the following statement showing the number and type of house, the closet accommodation and ash-places scavenged by the Council's contractors, farmhouses and outlying cottages being excluded:—

“Type of House :						
Through	...	...	...	...	...	601
Semi-through		...	...	...	...	400
Back-to-back		...	...	...	...	97
Type of Closet :						
Water Closet		...	...	...	...	558
Waste Water Closet			...	...	...	168
Privy	...	...	...	...	...	8
Pail	...	...	...	...	...	234
Ash Place :						
Midden	...	...	...	...	...	134
Bin	...	...	...	...	...	658

(b) SCAVENGING.

The collection and disposal of household refuse remains unchanged, and the work is carried out by contractors. The cost shows a slight decrease, £156 compared with £277, viz :— Oakworth £154, Laycock £50 and Stanbury £52.

Complaints have unfortunately been many in the Oakworth Drainage Area, where a new Contractor did not show a ready adaptibility for this kind of work, a class of work he had never previously undertaken. A lot of extra work was thrown on to your Sanitary Inspector as a result, at one period daily supervision being necessary. It should be realised once and for all that Scavenging is a serious job, and a contrect should not be placed merely on account of the smallness of the contract price ; the ability of the Contractor to perform the duties efficiently should be the first consideration.

The tip at Bogthorn was closed at the end of September, and so another eyesore is removed. The tip in use at present is almost full, and 1938 should see the new tip opened, and, after long delay, “controlled” tipping established.

In the outer areas this work has proceeded very smoothly, and hardly a complaint has been received, the Contractors doing their work intelligently and well.

The following work done during the year shows a greatly increased amount of refuse removed :—

Ward—				No. of Loads Dry.		No. of Pails Emptied.
Oakworth	...	...	...	758	...	1,147
Stanbury	...	...	...	197	...	3,114
Laycock and Newsholme		...	...	118	...	2,897”

4.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The district has been subject to routine inspection throughout the past year, and necessary steps taken for abatement of insanitary conditions when found.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND SANITARY WORK, &c., carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1937 :—

Houses supplied with Water	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Complaints received during the year	...	...	...	...	...	87
Number of Houses Built during the year	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Houses in course of erection at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Houses, Premises, &c., inspected and re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	1071
House Drains Repaired, Cleansed, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	46
House Drains Trapped and Ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	22
Waste Pipes Trapped or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Privies and Water Closets Repaired, Cleansed, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	9
Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	12
Privies abolished	...	...	...	...	...	—
W.W. Closets abolished	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ashbins, new, provided	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of Ashpits ordered to be emptied	...	...	...	...	...	53
Number of Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dairies provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cowsheds : Floors re-laid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Extra Light and Ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Drains laid	...	...	...	...	...	8
Coolers installed	...	...	...	...	...	2
New Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	1
Eaves Troughs provided	...	...	...	...	...	35
Closure of Houses unfit for Habitation	...	...	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	3
Seizure of Unsound Meat	...	...	...	...	...	—
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	11
Schools Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	—
Slaughter House Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	160
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	22
Dairy and Cowshed Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	579
Milk Samples reported upon	...	...	...	...	...	34
Inspections re Water Supply and Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	23
Inspections under Meat Regulations, 1924, and Slaughtering at Farms	...	...	...	...	...	11
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premises examined under Factory and Workshops Act	...	...	...	...	...	28
Plans approved	...	...	...	...	...	15
Plans Disapproved	...	...	...	...	...	7
Statutory Notices issued	...	...	...	...	...	4
Informal Notices sent under Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	18
„ „ (for Nuisances)	...	...	...	...	...	39

The plans disapproved relate generally to wood buildings, which, however, are allowed to be erected under agreement.

W. ASA BAILEY, M.S.I.A.

5.—PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

(a) COMMON LODGING HOUSES	} None in the District.
(b) OFFENSIVE TRADES	
(c) FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS, &c.	

A Register, a Record Book, and a Fire Escape Book are kept, in which details are entered up as to sanitation, air-space, ventilation, drainage of floors, cleanliness, etc.

FACTORIES.—Including all places operated by power, there are 20 Factories in the district. All were found satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.—10 ; none underground.

Eight smoke observations were taken, and two contraventions noted.

The numbers in the Workshops Register correspond with those of the previous year, namely :—

Cloggers and Bootmakers	...	...	7
Blacksmiths	...	...	2
Painters	...	...	3
Tailors	...	...	3
Milliners and Dressmakers	...	...	6
Plumbers and Tinnerns	...	...	1
Hairdressers	...	...	3
Stonecutter	...	...	2
Woolsorter	...	...	1
Mending	...	...	1
			—
			29

PETROLEUM ACTS AND ORDERS.—Eleven licences to store petroleum spirit, and three to store carbide of calcium were issued. Twenty-eight visits were made to the premises concerned. To the 29 workshops, 28 visits were made.

There is only one Outworker in the district.

(d) SCHOOLS AND MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The five schools in the district have all a water supply laid on. As regards Sanitary Conveniences, the schools at Stanbury, Oldfield and Laycock depend on pail closets, emptied by the public scavenging contractor. For educational, as well as hygienic reasons, this antiquated arrangement should be abolished.

The Medical Inspection of School Children is in the hands of the W.R. Education Authority, and a separate report made by the School Medical Officer.

(e) Swimming baths and pools—None in District.

(f) Eradication of bed-bugs—No infested houses recorded.

D.—HOUSING.

(a) STATISTICS (MINISTRY OF HEALTH TABLE).

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1)	a.	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	30
	b.	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	45
(2)	a.	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	—
	b.	Number of inspections made	...	...	...	—
(3)		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	—
(4)		Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	30

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	30
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :—

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.—

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
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(2)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—							
(a)	By Owner	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...						—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—							
	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...				—
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of informal notices :—							
(a)	By Owner	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...						—
(c)	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—							
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...				—
4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—OVERCROWDING :—								
(a)	(1) Number of houses overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...						—
(c)	(1) Number of cases relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	(2) Number of persons concerned	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
(d)	Number of houses again overcrowded after abatement (abated later)							1
(e)	Any other particulars of interest	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

REPAIRS UNDER HOUSING ACTS—

Floors relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Internal Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
External Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Chimney Stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
New Chimney provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Yards or Passages repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fall-pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
New Eaves Gutters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dry Areas provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Waste-pipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Additional Drainage provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cellars drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New Windows provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fire ranges repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Fire Ranges provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sanitary accommodation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New sanitary accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Outbuildings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
New Outbuildings provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Twelve houses were completed during the year. Houses in Stanbury are steadily being brought up to a better standard.

The demand for houses is not great.

W. ASA BAILEY, Building Inspector.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK, DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Your Inspector reports on the conditions as follows :—

“579 visits were made to the registered cowsheds, and, as in former years, whenever possible the inspections were made in conjunction with the West Riding County Council Veterinary Inspector. Co-operation with the Veterinary Services is wholehearted and, I believe, greatly appreciated. In spite of the undoubted high quality of the cattle kept, and the high standard of cleanliness maintained, it is somewhat remarkable, and rather disappointing, to find so few farmers willing to apply or take up the necessary licence to allow them to produce “Accredited” milk. Many farmers could obtain the licence with little expense, but the idea makes no appeal, and when pressed upon the point only a very lukewarm response is met with, and I always get the impression that the scheme is being treated with suspicion. I have also had complaints of over inspection. Apart from the Sanitary Inspector and the Veterinary Officer, it appears that some of the large establishments who collect milk by contract for the purpose of pasteurising at central depots are now also sending an Inspector to the farms with whom they are dealing, and it is certain that in this area, at least, this is resented by the farmer.

Nine farms are licensed to produce “Accredited” milk, one Pasteurised, and one Tuberculin Tested (J. T. Bairstow, Stanbury).

There are just over 100 registered Milk farms in the area.”

In his latest published report, the County Veterinary Inspector states :—

“3,204 cows were inspected and 12 slaughtered for Tuberculosis ; percentage tuberculous 1·27, compared with ·44 in 1935, with ·74 for Craven and 1·20 for the whole County.” He reports further : “Class of cows good ; cleanliness of both cattle and premises satisfactory.”

(b) MEAT—SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

With regard to these, your Inspector reports as follows :—

“To the three registered slaughterhouses, 160 visits were made. I have no complaint against the manner in which they have been managed. None of the slaughterhouses are ideally situated, all being in close proximity to dwellinghouses ; they have been kept in a cleanly state.

“There are 9 slaughtermen licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act.

“The quality of the meat has been consistently good throughout the year, and only a small amount has had to be condemned as diseased or unsound. A total weight of 864 lbs. was destroyed as unfit for food. In all cases it was voluntarily surrendered by the butchers concerned, who always gave me every assistance in the carrying out of my duties.

			Number of Carcases inspected.	Number entirely condemned.	Number of parts condemned.
Beasts	...	...	241	—	8
Calves	...	...	2	—	—
Sheep	...	...	560	—	—
Lambs	...	...	341	—	—
Pigs	...	...	268	—	4

“The following is a list of food surrendered :—

Beef : Tubercular, 461 lbs. ; Offals : Tubercular, 289 lbs. ; Non-tubercular, nil.
Pork : Tubercular, 114 lbs. ; Non-tubercular, nil.
Veal : Non-tubercular, nil.
Mutton : nil.”

(c) ADULTERATION—FOOD AND DRUGS.

Sampling of milk and action under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act are undertaken by the County Council and reported upon by the County Medical Officer.

F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(a) NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

According to reports received from the Local Education Authority, the district was comparatively free.

(b) NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The following cases—positive and suspected—were brought to the notice of the Health Department : Scarlet Fever 2, compared with 1 in the previous year, and 12 in 1935.

Removed to Hospital : 1 case of Scarlet Fever. Mortality from notifiable disease 0. Zymotic death-rate, nil.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS.

Infected houses are visited and advice given as to cleanliness of premises, ventilation, sleeping arrangements, indiscriminate spitting, disposal of sputum, etc. Disinfection of rooms occupied is carried out on removal or death of patients.

Cases notified :

Pulmonary : 0 males, 1 female (age 30).

Non-Pulmonary : 0 males, 2 females (age, 20 and 34).

Mortality :

Pulmonary : 1 male (age 54), 1 female (age 19).

Death-rate : Pulmonary .53, Non-Pulmonary .00, total .53, compared with, 1.03, .51 and .78 in the previous three years, and with .60 for Craven Combined District.

No action was found necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade, nor under the P.H. Act, 1925, Sec. 62, which empowers certain cases of Tuberculosis to be compulsorily removed to hospital.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The following specimens were sent to the County Laboratory for microscopic or bacteriological examination : Throat Swabs for Diphtheria, 1 ; Sputum for T. Bacillus, 8 ; Milk for TB, 1 ; total, 10.

I would here beg to express my thanks to Mr. W. Asa Bailey, your Sanitary Inspector, for valuable assistance in carrying on the sanitary administration of the District, and for details of work done by his department during the year.

In conclusion, I venture to repeat the following points for special consideration :—

1. Provision of an adequate water supply for Laycock and Stanbury.
2. Improved means of dealing with the drainage of Laycock and Stanbury.
3. “Controlled” tipping of refuse.

(It is understood that these matters are to be dealt with by Keighley Corporation after the amalgamation.)

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILL SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., C.M., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

KEIGHLEY,

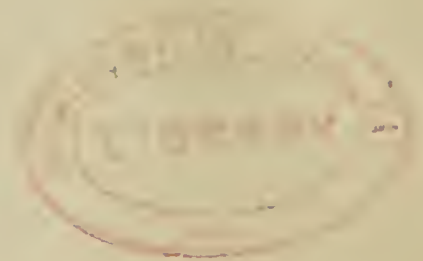
May, 1938.

COMPARATIVE TABLE.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN 1937.

	England and Wales.	125 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Craven Combined District.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
BIRTHS :				
Live	14·9	14·9	15·3	12·1
Still	0·60	0·67	0·64	0·61
DEATHS :				
All Causes	12·4	12·5	11·9	15·1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·01
Scarlet Fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00
Whooping Cough	0·04	0·04	0·03	0·02
Diphtheria	0·07	0·08	0·05	0·09
Influenza	0·45	0·39	0·42	0·54
Violence	0·54	0·45	0·42	0·54
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Smallpox	0·00	—	0·00	0·00
Scarlet Fever	2·33	2·56	2·42	1·17
Diphtheria	1·49	1·81	1·38	0·54
Enteric Fever	0·05	0·06	0·04	0·07
Erysipelas	0·37	0·43	0·34	0·14
Pneumonia	1·36	1·58	1·20	0·53
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	58	62	55	53
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.	5·8	7·9	3·2	1·10
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis	0·97	} Not available		·00
Others	2·26			3·30
Total	3·23			3·30
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).			
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis	0·94	} Not available		·00
Others	2·17			3·14
Total	3·11			3·14
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Puerperal Fever	13·93	17·59	11·52	4·18
Puerperal Pyrexia				

Oakworth
Urban District Council.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1937.

KEIGHLEY, MAY, 1938.

The Craven Herald Ltd., Skipton.